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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

3 March 1959

Date: 23 Jun 78 By: 

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**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Deputy Director of Central Intelligence**SUBJECT:** Agency ELINT Training Program

1. This memorandum recommends the establishment of an Agency ELINT Training Program in support of CIA ELINT activities. The Agency ELINT Advisory Committee has studied this proposal and submits the recommendations in paragraph 6 for your approval in principle. If approved, requests for slots and money will be submitted via normal channels.

2. On 29 May 1954 the Director approved the first Agency ELINT Program. Since that time Agency ELINT activities have grown in scope and number and have made a major contribution to national intelligence. Since ELINT is a relative newcomer to the intelligence community, there were, in the beginning, no standard operating procedures, and it was necessary for the Agency to develop an ELINT capability to meet assigned responsibilities in this new field. This effort has been successful, however, the rapid strides being made in science and technology are resulting in an ever increasing variety and complexity of electro-magnetic radiations with which ELINT deals. As a result, the intercept, analysis, and evaluation of these radiations is becoming more and more difficult; increasingly intricate and costly equipment is required and operational techniques must be continually refined. This situation places a growing responsibility on personnel associated with all phases of the ELINT effort. It is clear that the quality and quantity of the ultimate intelligence product is directly related to the capability of those producing it -- and this capability is, in turn, largely dependent on adequate training. Since the recruitment of trained ELINT personnel is nearly impossible and since the Military Services' ELINT interests and philosophy are quite different from the Agency's, it has been necessary for the Agency to train its own people making use of some applicable training courses given by NSA and the Services. Agency ELINT training has more or less paralleled the development of ELINT in CIA; i.e., an evolution by chronological circumstances utilizing individual component capabilities rather than a detailed over-all plan. Experience has shown that Agency ELINT training, although agreed to be important, on the whole has not had the priority or support needed to accomplish more than sporadic, hasty, on-the-job training.

3. The recommendations in paragraph 6 result from a detailed study of the Agency's total ELINT training requirements, an appraisal

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**SUBJECT: Agency ELINT Training Program**

of what Agency facilities now exist to satisfy these requirements and an estimate of what additional support is needed to carry out the program.

25X1 4. To illustrate the scope of the planned ELINT training program the following table of the number of people to be trained per component per year is presented. The amount of time spent in training will vary from one hour to full time. Details of this training appear in Tab A.

5. Attached as Tab A is a statement of "CIA ELINT Training Requirements" listing the courses and briefings presently needed to prepare Agency personnel for assignment to Agency ELINT activities. Tab A also indicates what facilities are now available to support many of these requirements. Tab B summarizes what additional facilities are needed and is the basis for the recommendations in paragraph 6.

6. The CIA ELINT Advisory Committee has studied the ELINT Training situation and submits the following recommendations for your approval.

a. The Office of Training be directed to manage the over-all Agency Training Program. OTR to coordinate the instruction between the using offices and training establishments, with funds, instructor personnel, technical guidance, support and equipment provided by the components concerned.

b. A group of 25 slots be authorized as a development complement for ELINT training. These to be allocated as follows:

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**SUBJECT: Agency ELINT Training Program**

25X1 e. Funds in the amount of [ ] be provided to supplement funds already budgeted by each component for ELINT equipment and external training costs. See attachments to Tab B for details on these figures. The equipment figures are first year costs and will be greatly reduced in subsequent years. The additional funds to be allocated as follows:



It is expected that the total shown for this program in all of these categories will not be required as new authorizations. The extent to which new authorizations will be required and the channels for securing these authorizations are now under study in the Agency components concerned.

7. Several of the factors that make the need for this training urgent are:

a. There is no Agency program for clandestine collection of ELINT using Agency controlled agents even though the need for such a capability is of critical importance in the Soviet Union and in the case of deployed missiles in the Soviet Satellites.

b. There is a need for a full team of trained ELINT operators and technicians to rotate at Project [ ] in about one year's time. A small number of additional personnel for this operation is an immediate necessity.

c. There is a need throughout the Agency for better understanding of ELINT, its potential and its relationship to other forms of intelligence.

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**SUBJECT: Agency ELINT Training Program**

8. The ELINT Advisory Committee stands ready to answer any questions you have on this proposal.

/s/ Herbert Scoville, Jr.

**HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.**  
Chairman, ELINT Advisory Committee

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**SUBJECT: Agency ELINT Training Program**

**APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE:**

/s/  
Director of Training

4 March 1959  
Date

/s/ R.A. Jr. \*  
Deputy Director/Intelligence

16 March 1959  
Date

/s/ H. Gates Lloyd \*\*  
Deputy Director/Support

27 March 1959  
Date

/s/ Richard M. Bissell, Jr. \*\*\*  
Deputy Director/Plans

Date

- \* My approval in principle is on the assumption that the Agency's role - ELINT collection and processing, will remain as at present an assumption I regard as dubious.
- \*\* Concur in principle with this proposal, but, the budget and ceiling situations being what they are, recommend that this program be implemented only to the extent that the individual components concerned can participate without any increase in ceiling or funds.
- \*\*\* Concur, subject to provisions of attached memorandum.

(See next page for DDCI's modified approval.)

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Memorandum for the DDCI from Chairman, ELINT Advisory Committee,  
dated 3 March 1959; Subject: "Agency ELINT Training Program"

The recommendations in paragraph 6 are approved for implementation within limitations of availability of resources in components concerned. Should either slots or additional funds be required, specific requests by components should be submitted.

/s/ C. P. Cabell  
Deputy Director

10 April 1959  
Date

Orig - Addressee, then returned to Chairman,  
ELINT Advisory Comm. (Dr. Scoville, AD/SI)

- 1 - Exec. Reg.
- 1 - DD/P
- 1 - AD/SI via DD/I
- 3 - DD/S (only 1 cy of which rec'd O/DDCI)
- 1 - ELINT Staff Officer

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